

**Evaluation of Library Workshops Essay Assignment**  
Deborah Miller-Zournas English Composition 112  
Qualitative Summary of Comments  
**Spring 2013**

**# of essays turned in: 47**

**Length of Time to Complete / Scheduling:**

- Take a lot of time to do and are not the most exciting things to do
- Convenient to do for my schedule and on my time
- Good that they could be done at any time and replayed whenever needed
- Online workshops were very time consuming
- Very time consuming
- It took a long time to finish watching all of the videos.
- I really like how we had the options to take them online or to go to a live workshop.
- Online workshops allowed you to work at your own pace. It allowed you to really learn how to do all the stuff on your own. I could access them from my house, it was really convenient.
- Disliked how long it took. Sometimes it seemed like there was information put into the workshop that was not needed so it took longer.
- Make each one a little shorter and add a fifth workshop.
- The only truly negative factor in which this workshop program displays is the time required to complete such a task.
- I thought that some of the lessons (online) were a bit too long and time consuming. Each one took me about an hour or an hour and a half to complete.
- There are not many chances to take them in the morning...post-secondary or working students are only able to go to the college in the mornings.
- The workshops were quick and easy. I liked how the workshops were set up last semester. The schedule was easy to use so for other students they could take the workshops other weeks.
- What I dislike about the workshops was the length and time it took to finish the workshop. It took an hour or more to review all the information.
- The time that it took to complete the workshops was something that I didn't really enjoy. I felt that there was a lot of filler information that wasn't really needed in the videos.

**Overall Usefulness / Helpfulness / Effectiveness:**

- tremendous learning experience for me.
- Valuable information and skills ///
- Very informative and helpful. ///
- Really were a success
- Very helpful ///
- I ended up liking them...
- Helped in many different ways
- Very beneficial /
- Were an excellent source of information
- Helped me tremendously
- Very valuable and effective ///
- Very useful ///

- Have helped me in various situations in my experience at Wayne College
- It is important to have these skills so the energy can be spent working on the actual paper.
- I'm glad that I finished them because they have helped me so much in my research...
- I thought they were very long and tedious. But overall they really helped me out in the long run.
- I felt the information was a waste of time and it only gave the workers in the library something to do. I feel it wasn't necessary to be taught. The only workshop I feel was necessary to be taught was workshop V.
- These workshops were boring and took up some time, but after completing them I would say they are definitely worth it.
- However, while they do have their shortcomings, the library workshops do teach valuable research skills that are necessary in many classes.
- Taking the library workshops has made researching subjects easier. I now have a better idea of what databases I should use and how to locate the correct databases related to my topic. My next paper requires information on education and I will be able to use Education Research Complete to gather appropriate material.
- I have never been fond of doing the workshops here at Wayne and I cringe every time it is announced that I will be doing a workshop for a class.
- Many aspects of the workshops I have never used outside of the libraries programs.
- As a college student the library workshops have some material that I can use, but as an adult out of college most of the content will be irrelevant to me.
- As great as the workshops are, I believe that if the student wants to learn about the material in them, then they should take the responsibility of doing the workshops on their own.
- I found myself using some of these techniques in no school related searching. Therefore, reaffirming the tools presented in the labs.
- Before, I had never even gone into the library and now I am confident that I could search for anything in there.
- Well put together and informational. They taught me how to do research when I did not even know I was doing it wrong.
- Although I would not consider the workshops to be fun they did teach me a lot.
- Every course has assignments, whether big or small, and the tips in the workshops would improve the quality of the information for the thesis assignments.

#### **Usefulness / Helpfulness / Effectiveness in regards to specific classes:**

- **Speech:**
- We were not asked to find extremely credible sources; did not have to do extensive research
- Did not use the information for speech class
- This class does not have assignments that are supported by the skills taught.
- Did not require the skills because it was personal opinion
- Speech topics were assigned that required extensive research in the library databases.
- We always have to cite at least 5 sources.
- My effective oral comm teacher is enforcing some of the skills taught in the workshops.
- We are currently working on a speech in which we must cite at least two credible sources.
- Heather Howley required these workshops. For that class, there was never really a time that we had to use this information, we could have used Google or other search engines instead.
- The next speech for Eff. Oral Comm is informative. This project needs many accurate sources of information which can be found from online databases we learned about.
- I do not think I needed to take the library workshops for my Oral Communication class. We did

not have to look up and find any kind of resources or use any databases when writing out our speeches and performing them.

- Never did we once talk about the content and how we could use the information that we learned and apply it to anything we did in the Intro to Speech class.
- Personally I have not taken a class where I would have to use the skills I had learned in the workshops but it is still early in my college career.
- It seemed bizarre that I had to complete the workshops because they didn't relate to the material. (see also Psych)
- Requires 5 sources in the informative speech

- **Eng. Comp I:**

- We also did not have any assignments that supported what we had learned. Eng. Comp. I was more about grammar and our papers did not need any form of evidence.

- **Eng. Comp II:**

- beneficial
- they certainly gave the specific knowledge needed for Eng. Comp II
- very helpful for Eng. Comp 112
- the skills taught in the workshops were very necessary for this class.
- This English class has already required several assignments to include credible sources within the paper.
- All of these skills have been very helpful in finding information for both my college classes (especially Eng Comp) and also my high school classes in which I needed research materials.
- Useful
- Very valuable for this class
- Each student will use the abilities taught in the workshops to support their original ideas with other sources' facts to make theirs stronger and more credible.
- I would have to say they (the skills) were not necessary.
- In my research supporting my paper on *College Inc.* the research skills helped me find a movie review and a government report on defaulted loans.
- For this class, the workshops have turned out to be very necessary and helpful.
- The class I believe the workshops applied to most is Eng. Comp 112.

- **Intro to Psych:**

- workshops have not come into play at all
- There were 2 assignments specifically directed for using the workshops
- Helped me in Psychology
- None of the skills were required in psychology
- Used for Psychology
- Not needed
- The class did not necessarily require the workshops for the work that was done. The workshops were needed to know how to find a scholarly article and a popular one.
- My psychology teacher has not yet reinforced any skills of these workshops.
- Thanks to the skills I learned in the workshops, I was able to easily locate a scholarly article.
- Useful for the info. lit projects
- The skills we learned in the workshop did not help us in this class.
- It was clear that my psychology professor did not care at all about the workshops.
- Completely irrelevant and were a major waste of time.
- It seemed bizarre that I had to complete the workshops because they didn't relate to the

material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Human Evolution</u></b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Sociology</u></b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Geology</u></b></li> <li>• I feel really comfortable when I'm searching for my other classes such as geology.</li> </ul>
<b>Likeliness to use Skills in Future:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will help tremendously throughout school</li> <li>• Tips about Google are the most valuable to me moving forward.</li> <li>• Internet tools will be helpful in everyday life.</li> <li>• Will help in my personal life</li> <li>• I will be using some of the search skills again soon on other assignments that I have in another course.</li> <li>• Will help to complete school with much more ease and better grades makes it well worth the time</li> <li>• Possibly even in your future job</li> <li>• Very helpful to me as I move forward through college.</li> <li>• Will make my college career much easier</li> <li>• Evaluating sources is an essential skill for the future.</li> <li>• Many important skills can be taken away from these workshops that can be used in moving forward furthering education and careers as well as in personal life.</li> <li>• Knowing how to find books within a library is a highly important skill to have.</li> <li>• Not only will these skills be useful now and in the future of the academic world, but also in a personal life and in non-academic ways.</li> <li>• Thanks to these workshops and my English class, I will be well prepared. (for future classes)</li> <li>• I feel prepared to tackle what is ahead of me in college and beyond.</li> <li>• ...will help me as I go on to a different university next year.</li> <li>• As someone who wants to go far in the field of psychology, I have a feeling that I will have to look up many scholarly articles in my college career.</li> <li>• When I continue my education after high school, these workshop will be very useful.</li> <li>• In upper level classes, they will become absolutely necessary.</li> <li>• As I go through the rest of school...I will need to do research for papers required in social science papers and chemistry classes. Also, as I go through my professional career as a teacher I would need to keep up to date with science discoveries. Also I can help teach the students at a young age how to use these research strategies. This will help the students when they go to college so that they have basic understanding of research strategies. If I chose to move on to graduate school...these workshops will help me achieve the final paper needed to graduate with the master's degree.</li> <li>• Knowing where to find something and how to find it can make someone's time much faster and can be an accurate way to provide evidence and resources to assignments or anything else in a person's personal life.</li> <li>• When the workshops are being done I often ask myself if I am ever going to use this material outside of my college life. Honestly, I think not.</li> <li>• Will use these skills my entire college career</li> </ul>
<b>Specific Skills and Concepts Learned:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boolean operators <b>### ##### /</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truncation <b>##### /</b></li> </ul>

- Evaluate scholarly and credible sources ~~###~~ ~~###~~ /
- Library catalog ~~####~~
- Eliminate worthless, not credible websites (bad source) ///
- Research Databases ~~###~~ ~~###~~
- Academic Search Complete ~~###~~ //
- Opposing Viewpoints
- Spend time to research a topic /
- Search Engines (Internet Searching) /
- Google Docs ///
- Narrow down topics ~~###~~
- Advanced Searching //
- Twitter /
- ILL //
- Limit my results /
- Google ~~###~~
- .com and www (meant nothing to me before this library workshop.) /
- Social network /

#### Finding Scholarly & Reliable Sources

- Have used this information on numerous occasions
- I can find those and what kind of criteria I need to look for in a source to know whether I should use it or not.
- They have helped me find credible scholarly sources which I will need for papers.
- This is what I need.

#### Handouts / Worksheets:

- The handouts make it very easy to follow along and help you later on the quiz.
- I liked the handouts because they helped me follow along.
- These also made it easier to follow along during the videos

#### Workshop Content:

- I did find some of the workshops to be unnecessarily repetitive.
- Like workshop 5 group activity
- The library could improve by making the workshops more interactive. – would be more fun.
- There was almost too much information for the amount of time that students are in the workshops.
- Sometimes the questions that were asked on the quizzes, like the interactive ones where you had to find something on a database were hard to follow and answer because it wasn't clear enough.
- The content of the workshops was highly factual, comprised of detailed specifics...
- In this area, the workshop truly shined, but when it came to actually engaging the student in what was meant to be taught, they missed the mark.
- Liked examples in workshop 2
- The tutorials did a good job of teaching me how to narrow my searches so that I can better find what I am looking for and filter out what I don't need.
- Liked how workshop 5 took place in class and that it combined all of the new techniques we

learned and encouraged us to use them

- Repetitive and boring
- Too many videos per section, and it was hard to keep my interest.
- Troublesome to get each workshop done within a week because I also have other classes to do homework and study for
- It was much to my surprise, however, that I did not know hardly any of it! (workshop content)
- There also was a large amount of information covered in the workshops that was not on the quizzes.
- I liked that the workshops were available on springboard which made it more efficient for me to complete them.

#### **Delivery of Content online:**

- What was unfortunate from my point of view is how monotonous and dull it came out to be; it was hard to focus because of how boring they were
- The videos were actually very boring and dry.
- I suggest continually updating the videos. Some parts are just a little dated but other than that they are fine.
- Found it hard to follow
- I did not personally like the workshops but I do find valuable information with the workshop.
- Make shorter with less content on particular topics.
- Boring
- Liked demonstrations that Maureen did on the online videos.
- Liked the notes provided in the videos.
- The online videos were hard to keep up with and I often had to restart them because they couldn't be paused or rewound.
- ...they took way too much time. I found that the online tutorials were very irritating to watch. ...really boring and not exciting at all. I didn't like the fact that you couldn't work on them with others on the workshops. If the library workshop were more fun and enjoyable I think that more students would just do them instead of being asked to do them by their teachers.
- I liked that Maureen could run through examples in the videos. It was so much easier being able to see her do what she was talking about.
- The first two were timed well, but the last two seemed to move very quickly and rushed. Attempting to pay attention to the narrator and write everything down in a few seconds was a daunting task.
- I liked the slideshow style of some of the lessons and that they were also narrated.
- They were quite repetitive. I lost my concentration easily.
- The videos don't work on all computers, especially older ones. On some computers, they run very slowly, making what is supposed to be a one hour session in a much longer task.
- ...I would have liked to see a button for continuous play so that you would not have to go back and load each segment. The video was clear and easy to understand the instructor. (workshop 4)
- The thing I liked most was how the librarians cut the tutorials into many different short videos, rather than one long ominous video per lab. The depth and detail within each lab was daunting, but extremely valuable.
- The videos did a great job by showing step by step instructions on how to do what is being taught in that session. The only thing that popped out as a negative would be that the video sessions seemed to be a little lengthy.

### **Delivery of Content live:**

- The lady would talk and show on the screen how to maneuver through the process. However, these were a little too long. They should only be a half hour or so.
- The ones I took live were much more helpful than taking them online. Having a teacher makes it much easier to learn and they show you stuff first hand.
- My teacher for the first one was very helpful and made sure everyone in the class knew what they were doing before she moved on. I learned a lot about researching and surprisingly was not bored.
- The teacher kind of sped through the information and I got lost a few times. The PowerPoint she used did not follow the outline very well.
- The fifth workshop was decent. I learned a lot from it, but at the same time, I don't know that it needed to take three class times.
- Everything felt very rushed.
- I think going to a live library workshop really helped me learn the information better than if I would have done it online.
- What was being taught was difficult to follow.
- The person teaching would skip over large parts of the handouts which would confuse students.
- Maureen had everyone involved using different exercises and practices to her advantage; all while keeping the attention of the class and actually engaging students. This was a vast improvement over students merely completing it online, for the sake of completing it.
- Liked that Maureen came in our classroom for Workshop 5. Liked hands-on experience.
- I felt like there was not enough time to cover all of the information that needed to be covered.
- I also thought the length of classes were just long enough. The quizzes were always graded quickly, and I appreciated the dedication of the instructors.
- I really liked this because you were able to ask questions in person and see them with other people.
- The librarians were credible.....
- My instructor basically gave all the answers to the questions in the live workshops. Lisa was also there to answer any questions no matter how silly they might have seemed.

### **Rules and Requirements of Workshops – general comments:**

- Think they should be a requirement for classes at Akron Wayne.
- Try to incorporate workshops into the classes that require them; not the ones that don't
- Good idea if all the workshops were incorporated into the class, not just the fifth
- Liked option to take live or online
- Maybe all of the workshops should be incorporated within the class at hand, rather requiring students to complete them at home.
- Finding good information is necessary for many classes.
- If other instructors from other classes require the workshops, the classes that require the workshops should assign assignments that support the skills that they were taught.
- One of the more positive factors of this program is that it has many options as to how the student may complete the assignment.
- I would have really enjoyed if it there would have been more live options available...
- The workshops should only be assigned to the classes that require the skills in the workshop to complete assignments in that course.

### Rules and Requirements of Workshops - library related:

- Did not like that workshops were offered outside class time.
- Liked how quickly the quizzes are graded
- Workshops were due so soon to when they started being offered that there was not a very good selection on what workshops one could attend.
- When taking the quiz, students are able to review the video content... it does little to encourage any real thinking or learning. It is also possible for the user to skip the entire workshop, choosing only to skim through the videos, watching bits and pieces in order to answer the questions on the quiz (and handouts).
- I enjoyed taking the quizzes at home because I could take my time to really think about the question...
- If the reason that these skills are necessary was enforced, maybe just in the first workshop, a few more students would be able to see them as advantageous.
- I don't understand why we must get at least a B on the workshops to pass. It isn't like that in other classes so why must we get that grade just for some library workshops?